



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE NEW DEPARTURE IN ATHLETIC CONTROL.

I ASSUME without argument the value, necessity, and propriety of general physical training and of athletic sports, among students of both secondary and higher grades. I admit without hesitation that we fail badly in our management; on the one hand doing too little, on the other hand doing, or allowing our students to do, too much. The middle course in this case, as will be seen, is a "golden mean."

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted at a recent meeting of representatives of the Missouri College Union:

1. *Resolved*, That it is desirable that all students should take systematic physical training during the entire period of their academic career. It is our understanding that all athletics come under the general head of physical training.

2. *Resolved*, That it is the conviction of this conference that all college athletics should be under the control and supervision of the college faculty. That the faculty authorities, responsible for the standard maintained in athletics, should instruct the general student body, as well as candidates for teams, in the principles of good sportsmanship and manly conduct in their athletic activity, and that penalties be imposed upon players who in any way resort to unfair tactics in a contest, or make themselves obnoxious while connected with the team.

3. *Resolved*, That in every college community the public opinion should be fostered which shall be absolutely fair and courteous to visiting teams, which shall be prompt to recognize and applaud good play and acts of chivalry on either side, and which never drops below the plane of considerate and gentlemanly conduct.

4. *Resolved*, That the authorities of each college discountenance betting in connection with athletic events and endeavor to build up a public sentiment against this baneful evil.

5. *Resolved*, That inasmuch as the eminent purpose of college athletics is the physical training and development of the student corps, the students we have should be our first care, and hence the practice of recruiting athletic material from other institutions of the same grade, or of a lower grade, by presenting special inducements in the way of athletic, social, or financial opportunity, is unfair, unsportmanlike, and unworthy of an educational institution.

6. *Resolved*, That since the employment of professional coaches has a

corrupting influence on college athletics, a sentiment be created in the educational institutions of this state that will bring about the entire abandonment of the system of professional coaching. In this connection we recommend the regular employment by each institution of a competent instructor of physical training.

7. *Resolved*, That a long train of evils seems to be inseparably connected with the feature of gate receipts, a feature rendered necessary by the inadequate provision for the support of a physical department. This inadequacy we regret, and its evils we deplore. It is our judgment that the ideal condition toward which we should all aim is an endowed department, with a financial management in the hands of college officers; that all public entertainments in which our students take part should be free and complimentary; that expenses should be rigidly kept within incomes, and that extravagance in any direction should be carefully avoided. The number of intercollegiate contests should be limited, and their character determined by the highest interests of the student body, and visiting teams should always be entertained as guests. In short, the physical department should be provided and administered by the college authorities in the same way as is the department of science, engineering, or literature.

My thesis is the seventh resolution, relating to endowed departments of physical training, and the entire abolition of the feature of "gate receipts" from all student athletics. The substance of that resolution I incorporated into an address on "Manly Sports" in St. Louis in March, 1902, and again in a paper read before the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education at Pittsburg, Pa., in June of last year.

The train of evils connected with the feature of gate receipts is manifest to every close observer. Intercollegiate athletic contests, like other intercollegiate matches (debates, orations, chess, tennis, etc.), seem to be necessary to the maintenance of a lively and healthy interest in athletics as manly sports. Even under good management they cost considerable money. They cannot be had without money. The participants generally cannot afford to meet the expense; the non-participating students do not feel that the burden should fall on them. There is usually no money in the college treasury for such contests. The only course open is that adopted by the managers of professional baseball, professional boxing, prize-fighting, horse-racing, etc., viz., make the event as spectacular and exciting as possible, and invite the public to attend and pay the bills. This solution of

the problem is purely American and of recent origin, and it has brought about an air of professionalism which has decidedly lowered the moral tone of college athletics. Here the train of evils at once began its course. As soon as the managers found that they could get the public to pay the expenses, they set out to induce them to pay roundly, and to come in crowds. The drawing cards for a public exhibition were individual players of rare strength and skill, and a team reputation for great prowess and strategy. To secure these attractions, no labor, no money, must be spared. A thousand dollars spent on the team will come back fourfold at the gate. Now enter the professional coaches, the hired trainers, and the volunteer recruiting officers. Athletics ceases to be manly sport and healthy fun; it is desperate business and hard drudgery with the fun squeezed out of it. The average, growing, developing student, in whose interest athletics were originally organized and maintained, is neglected, and the country is scoured far and wide for superior athletic material to make up a team that is reasonably sure to win and so draw a paying crowd.

See how corruption creeps in at every joint. The ideal man, who excels in both brain and brawn, *may* be on the team, but the chances are many to one that he is not. As a rule the recruited material makes up the team, and we all know what that material generally is. It is not sought, nor does it come, for the high ends for which a college is established and fostered. This recruited material may get some benefit from the incidental work of the course, such as mathematics, science, and literature, but the evident tendency on the part of college athletes to turn out professional sports is something to be deplored.

Next note the evils inevitably connected with coaching. Next year's salary of your coach depends chiefly on the record of his team this year. They must win or he loses. What can you expect? Are you surprised if he says privately to his men: "Put so-and-so out of the game as soon as you can, even at the risk of being disqualified yourselves; we have no other way to win, and win we must." You have all read Professor Hollis's protest against the gradual disappearance of chivalrous conduct

on the football field. President Eliot, without explaining why, says that the ethics of the game of football "do not improve. The martial axiom—attack the enemy's weakest point—inevitably leads to the deliberate onslaught on the cripple and the convalescent in the opposing lines; and the habitual violation of rules, if penalties be escaped, is regarded by many as merely amusing." Brutal acts of violence, like stabs in the dark, may miss detection, but they lower the moral natures of the players and corrupt the entire atmosphere of the game. I agree with Professor Hollis that it were better to abandon football than to maintain it at a loss of our high ideals of fair play and gentlemanly conduct. If honor is lost, all is lost—whatever may be the score.

In my judgment the professional coach, who sells his services for ten weeks at a price proportional to his ability to show a green set of young giants how to win games, must be eliminated. His place must be taken by volunteer upper-class men and regular instructors, who are not interested in gate receipts, and who are willing to do the best they can with home material, provided only that the visiting teams with which they play do the same. High-minded, incorruptible coaches may exist; I hope they do; but I fear it would take Diogenes with his lantern to find them.

Betting is so common among sporting men that it seems to be a logical feature even in the cases which have only a semi-professional air, like intercollegiate games. The betting habit, like all kinds of gambling, is to be condemned everywhere, especially among young men. I think it can be shown that this habit is fostered by the practice of recruiting, which aims to secure an unfair and an unknown advantage over a rival team. In its turn the laying of wagers corrupts and demoralizes players. Some rules forbid betting on the part of players; but if the player does not bet, his friends do, and the strain on his sense of honor is so great that he cannot resist the temptation to do mean and unlawful things, for the purpose of winning. Some boys learn to bet at their fathers' knees; others learn by listening to the talk of sporting men at games and races and loafing-places; so that doubtless there would be some betting among

college students even if there were no secretly enlisted athletes, no coaches intent upon victory at any cost ; but I am morally certain that were there no gate receipts, there would be much less betting and no harmful excitement before and after an athletic meet.

I need not dwell upon the evils of mutual suspicion and distrust. This feeling springs indigenously in the breasts of dishonest and dishonorable people, and is fatal to fellowship and true sportsmanship. This evil can be traced in large part to the professional tone brought in by the coaches, who are themselves introduced to make a drawing team, which in turn is necessary to a large income in the shape of gate receipts. Professor Hollis says that the Harvard-Yale game of football seems to arouse the worst impulses of the students. "Suspensions are rife, bets are on, and studies are practically suspended during the entire week preceding the game." This excitement is not due to the fact that the players feel that they must play, and play their best ; for not more than one man in several hundred expects to play ; but it is chiefly due to wagers and bets of all kinds and shapes. The punishment meted out inexorably upon a man who "breaks training" is not on account of the injury and harm he does to himself, but because he imperils the chances of the team, endangers the risks taken by his friends, and jeopardizes the reputation of his trainer, his coach, and his physical director. I do not object to the punishment, but I do object to a wrong interpretation of it, viz., that it shows a remarkably high standard of physical temperance and manly purity. In plain truth it shows no such thing. The same motley crowd that stands ready to nearly lynch a man for "breaking training" would stand equally ready to punish him for not putting an opponent out of play, should he have a safe chance for doing so.

The demoralization caused by the gate-money feature does not stop with students and coaches ; it extends to athletic committees of the faculty and to advisory boards. The necessity of getting money to pay bills stares them continually in the face and forces them to do a hundred things they would rather not

do, and which they would not do if the department of physical training had an assured income sufficient for their reasonable demands. The temptation to deal gently with the shortcomings of players is irresistible, and the responsibility for the payment of bills is heavy. I know whereof I speak, for I am serving my third year as chairman of an advisory board. I am already a confirmed beggar, and I am continually scheming to increase "gate receipts." My position is a very painful one, considering my convictions. The people of St. Louis are beginning to think my interest in engineering and manual training was only a "passing fancy," and that my ruling passion is, after all, athletics. Some of you may fare worse than I do. Beggary is not the worst that can be charged, but to be counted as a pedagogical sport is pretty bad.

President Eliot evidently regards the large amount of gate receipts as an evil. He says, "Expenditures for football are steadily increasing;" and we all know the tendency of ill-gotten moneys to go extravagantly.

I have thus endeavored to connect more or less directly the serious evils of intercollegiate athletics with the feature of gate receipts. To show this connection still more clearly, consider how different things would be if, through an adequate endowment, the department of physical training were to receive a definite income which could be increased only by student membership fees. Let it be understood that all games for gate receipts would be strictly forbidden; that, in the place of coaches and trainers, the physical director would be given a proper corps of assistants on regular salaries. Is it not evident without further argument that the motives which have been so active in the work of demoralization would be largely wanting? No increase in the number of spectators to a game could add to the income. No refusal to do mean and ungenerous things would put the salary of a permanent teacher in jeopardy. The chief source of temptation to break rules, to steal players, and to work in "ringers" would be lacking, and teams would meet as friends with mutual respect. The existing tendency to exaggeration would be checked, and in the hands of discreet managers the

annual allowance would be devoted to the rational, healthy development of the whole student corps.

The attitude of boards of overseers, regents, and directors of colleges and universities toward athletics is anomalous and illogical in the extreme. Lest I give offense, let me refer only to my own university. I dare to claim that Washington University is fortunate above them all in its board of directors, and if I point out a failure to be entirely logical in the treatment of the subject before us, you must hasten to the conclusion that they who have done so much and so admirably on other lines will be among the first to see the establishment of a new régime in athletics, if we succeed in demonstrating its logical and educational necessity.

Here is the present status: We have erected a large and well-appointed gymnasium costing \$150,000. Immediately adjoining is a superb athletic field, whose site, construction, and seating cost not less than \$100,000. The fact that the International Fair of 1904 will use this field explains in part its magnificent appointments, but not its poor logic, which is easily shown. Football, baseball, and field and track athletics are all provided for, as far as grounds and bathing- and dressing-rooms are concerned, thus implying full recognition of the importance and propriety of an athletic department in the university; yet thus far the board of directors has not been able to secure one dollar toward an endowment of this department. We have a magnificent laboratory, but as yet no adequate provision for its maintenance and use. A parallel proceeding would be for a college to provide a magnificent library with books in many tongues, but with never a librarian nor a professor of language and literature.

My contention is that if athletics are to be allowed to exist at all as a feature of college life, physical training, including a fair proportion of domestic and intercollegiate athletics, should be incorporated into the curriculum. If athletics are not worthy of such recognition, they are not worthy of athletic fields and athletic club-houses. If intercollegiate contests are not worthy of financial support and effective supervision, they ought not to

be allowed, and it is the height of inconsistency to adopt eligibility rules which have no bearing except in the case of intercollegiate contests.

Under student management athletics have run riot in some institutions, and into serious exaggerations in many. In secondary schools the exaggerations are becoming intolerable. Sporting men and sporting methods are having a bad influence among boys, depreciating intellectual pursuits and degrading morals. I believe that athletics can be restrained within bounds and kept wholesome and altogether desirable, but active physical training must be required and made universal; intercollegiate games and field meets must be limited in number and improved in character; and all necessary funds must come from the college chest and be accounted for as rigidly as are the expenses of a department of engineering or a museum of art.

Enduring fame shall be the fortune of that institution which shall first adopt these suggestions and live up to the spirit of our resolutions. It must adequately endow its physical department, do away with the feature of gate receipts, eliminate the professional coach, and maintain pleasurable athletics among all its students. I propose to do my best in St. Louis to secure an endowment of a department of physical training in Washington University. We want a professor and director of physical training whose salary shall be paid out of the university chest, and an endowment of at least \$100,000, the income of which shall pay for the services of regular assistants, and meet the expenses of a few intercollegiate complimentary games or meets each year. Who will join us in this noble enterprise and set the pace for a sweeping reform in the status and character of athletics in the universities of the United States?

C. M. WOODWARD.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY,
St. Louis, Mo.